

open honest countenance was sufficient to prejudice any one in his favour, offered himself.

The captain, at the very first sight, wished to have this young fellow in his company; he observed him tremble, when he made the offer to enlist; attributing this emotion to timidity, or, perhaps, the uneasiness a young man might feel at selling himself, who is sensible of the value of liberty; he betrayed his suspicions on this head, and endeavoured to encourage him. Ah! Sir, replies the youth do not attribute my confusion to such basemotives; it raises only from the dread of being refused: you, perhaps, will not accept of me; and should this be the case, how dreadful is my misfortune! Some tears escaped him, and he finished his speech. The captain assured him he was ready to enlist him, and demanded his terms. I cannot propose them without trembling, answered the youth; perhaps they will disgust you. I am young, you see my size, I am able in every respect, and willing to serve his Majesty: but an unfortunate circumstance obliges me to stand upon terms that doubtless you will think exorbitant: be assured, without the most pressing reasons, I should not sell my service; but necessity has no law; I cannot enlist under ten guineas, and you will break my heart if you refuse me upon these terms.

Ten

Ten guineas! replied the officer: the sum is considerable, I acknowledge; I like you, and you seem willing; so I shall not stand boggling with you; there is the money. The serjeant will see you properly attested, and keep yourself in readiness to march at an hour's notice.

The youth readily signed his certificate, and received the ten guineas with as much thankfulness as if they had been given him at present. He then requested his captain to permit him to go and fulfil a sacred obligation, promising to return to his quarters instantly. The captain remarking something extraordinary in the behaviour of the youth, curious to discover the motives of his conduct, he watched him slyly, and observed him run to the county gaol (his hurry preventing him from taking notice of the captain) knock briskly at the door, and the moment it was opened, call out to the gaoler, Here is the debt and costs in the action on which my father has been arrested; I deposit it in your hands; conduct me to him that I may have the pleasure of setting him at liberty. The officer stops a minute, to give him time to reach his father alone, and then enters into the prison. He sees the youth clasped in the arms of an old man, whom he is ready to smother with his caresses and tears, whom he informs that he has purchased his liberty.